

Blue Grass *exchange*

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



Winter 2007
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Blue Grass Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant

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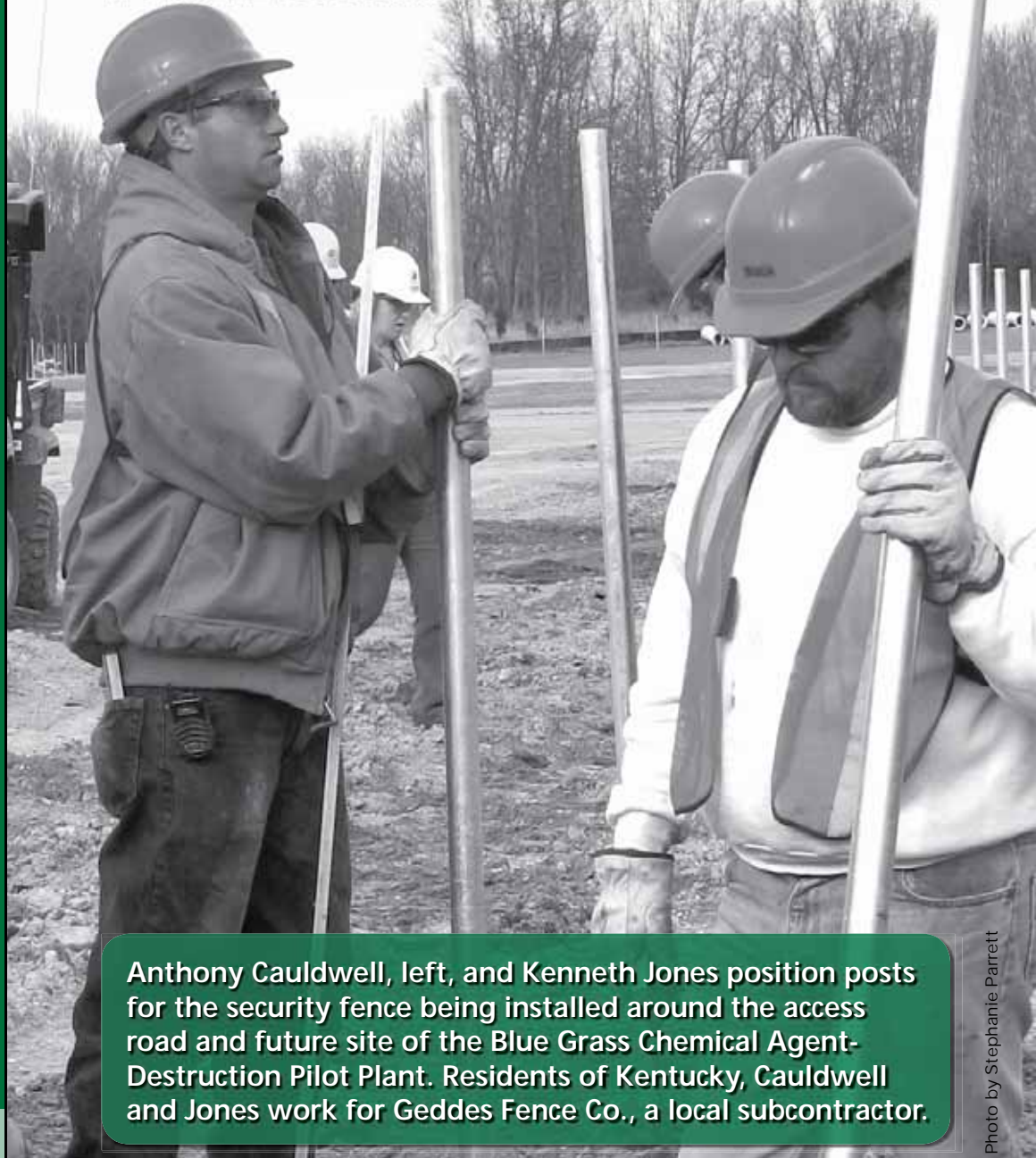
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Local Economy to Benefit From Subcontract Awards



Anthony Cauldwell, left, and Kenneth Jones position posts for the security fence being installed around the access road and future site of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. Residents of Kentucky, Cauldwell and Jones work for Geddes Fence Co., a local subcontractor.

Photo by Stephanie Parrett

Message From the Manager

Blue Grass Project Continues to Mark Milestones

By JIM FRITSCHÉ
Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction
Pilot Plant Site Project Manager



The milestones we marked for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) at the close of 2006 set the stage for continued progress and success for the BGCAPP project in 2007.

Phase II construction will continue, including previously awarded subcontracts for civil work, fencing, the access control building, active vehicle barriers and electrical work.

We will coordinate closely with the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection in an effort to implement some of the proposed design options that could ultimately produce cost savings.

Project funding for 2008-2013 will continue to be discussed. On Jan. 10, the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), the Department of Defense program that manages the Blue Grass project, completed the Nunn-McCurdy recertification process. As a result, ACWA received direction to develop and submit a revised Acquisition Program Baseline that

will outline more realistic funding levels and schedules for both BGCAPP and the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Colorado.

I want to thank Bob Rudd, who is serving as acting project manager for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, as well as prime contracts manager. Rudd's background includes 13 years as a senior contracting official and program manager with the U.S. Air Force and seven years in the defense industry as a director of contracting before taking his current position with Bechtel National, Inc. and the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Joint Venture in 2003. Even with Bob working double duty at both jobs – in Richmond one week and Pasadena, Calif., the next – he is always positive and a pleasure to work with.

Other News: Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Welcomes New Team Members

- As the new business manager, a key position, **Chiquita Perry-Williams** divides her time between the

Richmond office and the Pasadena, Calif., office. She came to the project from the Kwajalein Project where she served as project controls manager. The Kwajalein project is located at the Ronald Reagan National Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll. This project focuses on missile and missile-interceptor testing, space surveillance and satellite tracking.

- **Gary Cough** has been promoted to the position of construction manager. He has served as field engineer for the past three years.
- **Jeff Weldon** has been named safety and health manager. He was most recently safety and health manager for the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland.
- **Dan Taylor** has been named chief scientist on the BGCAPP project and will be dividing his time between the Blue Grass project and the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project in Colorado.

Mark Your Calendar



Your involvement is essential to the success of the project. Please share your views at the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board meetings. The meetings will be held on **March 13, June 11, September 11 and December 11 at 1:30 p.m.** in the **Carl D. Perkins Building, rooms A and B** at **Eastern Kentucky University.**

Photo by Stephanie Parrett

Project Awards \$20.4 Million to Local Business

By SANDRA PLANT
Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass

Recent subcontract awards for the construction of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant are not only building the pilot plant, but also building up the local economy.



Photo by Gene Rhodes

Subcontractors place asphalt on the access road from the new entrance gate to the plant construction site.

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass has awarded multiple subcontracts to local businesses. Overall, \$20.8 million has been awarded in subcontracts, with 98 percent of the awards going to Kentucky firms. The Allen Company, Bluegrass Contracting, Intersteel and T.E.M. Electric were among the local businesses who were awarded subcontracts.

These contract awards are translating into progress on the construction site. Residents traveling along Kentucky State Highway 52 near the Madison County Fairgrounds can see a new entrance gate to the Blue Grass Army Depot. The gate was installed to allow access to the plant construction site.

Regular travelers along this route have seen much activity over the past several months as the Allen Company of Winchester, Ky., graded, built and placed asphalt on the main site access road. The Allen Company and its subcontractors also performed the main plant earthwork and prepared the foundation pads for the munitions demilitarization building and the control services building. During the peak of activity on this work, 40-48 local subcontractor construction workers were on the site each day.

Twenty-thousand feet of perimeter fencing is being installed around

the footprint of the site to separate the plant site from the rest of the Blue Grass Army Depot property. The fencing work is being performed by Bluegrass Contracting, a local small, veteran-owned business that is classified as a historically under utilized business zone. Bluegrass Contracting has also been awarded the work for the roadway concrete and mechanical utilities.



Photo by Stephanie Parrett

Richard Curtis, subcontractor, removes the snap ties that were used to hold the forms for the concrete placement on a retaining wall. A hard hat, safety glasses and vest are everyday attire for team members who work on the construction site.

Intersteel was awarded the contract for the access control building that will function as a security facility with inspection areas that are covered by canopies. T.E.M. Electric also received an award for the installation of electrical equipment, lighting and telecommunications cabling.

A subcontract for the installation of a vehicle control barrier was awarded to Armada, an out-of-state, service-disabled veteran-owned small business.

Potential suppliers and subcontractors are required to register on the Bechtel Supplier and Contractor Portal, <http://supplier.bechtel.com>. Bid opportunities are posted on the project Web site, <http://www.bechtelparsonsbgcapp.com>. For more information, contact Diane Osbourne, small business program advocate, at (859) 624-6204 or dosbourn@bechtel.com.

Design Changes Yield Cost Savings for Blue Grass Project

By SANDRA PLANT
Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project staff have trimmed the overall cost of the facility by reducing the number of treatment units in the pilot plant, changing how secondary wastes generated in the facility will be handled and incorporating more efficient technology into the design.

As a result of the design changes, the Blue Grass Army Depot and Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, the permittees, submitted a revision of the Research, Development and Demonstration permit application to the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP), Division of Waste Management.



Photo by Stephanie Parrett

Public involvement is a key part of the permitting process. Tom Kurkky, environmental manager for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, spoke about permit changes at a recent public meeting.

KDEP issued the Research, Development and Demonstration permit to the project in 2005, allowing the Blue Grass project to move forward with initial site work. The revision of the permit incorporates changes designed to reduce the cost of the facility and to incorporate changes and innovations in the pilot plant design.

The Blue Grass project launched a series of studies called design considerations to evaluate options to reduce the total cost of the facility. Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives and Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass coordinated with the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board design considerations working group to review the cost savings studies.

The technology driving the pilot plant design continues to be neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation.

Copies of the Research, Development and Demonstration permit application can be found at the project information repositories listed below:

- Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office
- Crabbe Library, Eastern Kentucky University
- Madison County Public Library, Berea and Richmond Branches
- KDEP, Division of Waste Management



From left, Joe Nemec, operations manager for chemical demilitarization for Bechtel National Inc., and Jim Fritsche, site project manager for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, discuss construction details of the pilot plant.

Photo by Stephanie Parrett

Blue Grass Project Construction Scorecard

Total Awards: \$20.8 million

- \$20.4 million to Madison and surrounding counties
- \$50,000 to Kentucky businesses outside the local area
- \$400,000 to businesses outside Kentucky

Percentages of Awards to Kentucky Firms: 98.2%

- 98.0 percent to Madison and surrounding counties
- 0.2 percent to Kentucky businesses outside the local area

Open Dialogue Moves Permitting Process Forward

By REBECCA TOY
Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

Accomplishments do not come without challenges, and so Blue Grass team members and the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) work together to resolve issues and move the project forward.



Photo by Kathy DeWeese

Craig Williams of the Chemical Weapons Working Group shares his views at a recent public meeting, where the community heard about revisions to the Research, Development and Demonstration permit application. Public participation and interactive dialogue with the workforce, elected officials, citizen boards and the community form the cornerstone of the Blue Grass project.

The Blue Grass Army Depot and Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, the permittees, recently submitted a revision of the Research, Development and Demonstration permit application to KDEP's Division of Waste Management. The permittees

presented the changes made to the pilot plant design during a public meeting. The Division of Waste Management oversees the permitting process for the pilot plant.

"It was a collaborative effort, a lot of hard work and dedication from all parties involved in the preparation and timely submittal of the application," said Ramesh Melarkode, chemical demilitarization environmental engineer for Blue Grass Army Depot. "There were permitting challenges associated with some of the design changes, but we worked it out. The open forum sessions through monthly meetings were instrumental to the successful submittal."

"The Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant facility will be built to meet or exceed all regulatory requirements. We are committed to that, and so is KDEP," said Tom Kurkij, environmental manager for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass.

"As evident through the public meeting, KDEP and the Blue Grass project continue to develop and expand the partnership to facilitate an appropriate permit that meets the needs of the public and facility," said April Webb, hazardous waste branch manager for KDEP's Division of Waste Management.



Photo by Sandra Plant

The permit application was "a collaborative effort," said Ramesh Melarkode, left, chemical demilitarization environmental engineer for Blue Grass Army Depot, pictured here with Brian Ballard, environmental engineer for KDEP's Division for Air Quality, and Tom Kurkij, environmental manager for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass.

News Brief

Special Board Meeting Called to Discuss Recently Released Reports

The Chemical Destruction Committee Advisory Board and Citizens' Advisory Commission held a special public meeting on Feb. 1 at Eastern Kentucky University. Representatives of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program and its contractor, Mitretek Systems, provided briefings on recently released reports on the issue of off-site shipment of chemical agent hydrolysate – the byproduct of the neutralization process.

The reports are available at www.pmacwa.army.mil.

New Leadership at Helm of Chemical Materials Agency

By REBECCA TOY
Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

Leadership at the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) changed hands in January.

Leaving CMA is Michael A. Parker, who has been serving in dual roles as director of CMA and as the program manager for the Department

of Defense's Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program, known as ACWA. Replacing Parker is Dale A. Ormond, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate.

Parker has led CMA since the agency's inception in February 2003. He has served as the ACWA program manager since December 1996.

"Mike Parker is an absolute class act. He's been wonderful to work with over the years," said Kent Clark, Madison County Judge-Executive.



Photo by U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency

Participants in the change of command ceremony at the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency stand at attention during the National Anthem. From left are Michael A. Parker, ACWA program manager and former CMA director; Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command; Dale A. Ormond, CMA acting director; and Dean G. Popps, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics, and technology.

A Snapshot of 2006 Construction Progress



WINTER

Contractors cleared land from Kentucky State Highway 52 to the future site of the pilot plant.



SPRING

Contractors began earthwork cut and fill with associated grading. Technicians conducted peak particle velocity tests to determine how close heavy equipment can get to the stockpile located in nearby igloos without adding risk to the weapons in storage.



SUMMER

Soil at the munitions demilitarization building site was removed and backfilled with dense grade aggregate, or crushed stone.



FALL

Contractors installed the permanent stream crossing for the access road.

Asphalt was placed on the access road, leading to the future site of the pilot plant.

A security fence was installed along the access road and around the perimeter of the future plant site.

Photos courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

New Bechtel Position to Strengthen Safety and Science on Sister Projects

By MIGUEL MONTEVERDE
Bechtel National, Inc.

Dr. Craig Myler, Bechtel National's new chief engineer for process and technology, is no stranger to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

Formerly with Battelle Memorial Institute, a key teaming partner with Bechtel on all three of its chemical stockpile destruction projects, Myler worked extensively on chemical weapons destruction in both the United States and overseas, including providing technical oversight of Battelle's work on the Blue Grass project.

During his decade of service with Battelle, Myler held a number of important positions, including that of chief scientist at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Colorado and earlier, chief scientist at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland.

"Every one of these chemical neutralization projects," said Myler, commenting on his new role, "builds on a common foundation of safety and sound science. It just makes sense to share experience and lessons learned at every opportunity – not only between projects, but with those senior Bechtel managers who can expedite problem-solving at the highest level."



Photo by Paul Dent

Dr. Craig Myler, right, briefs Pueblo chemical weapons destruction officials on the munitions treatment unit during a visit to Abbott Furnace in Pennsylvania.

In a parallel move, Battelle has named Dan Taylor, the current Aberdeen chief scientist, to those same responsibilities at both Blue Grass and Pueblo.

"I've worked with Dan Taylor for a long time," said Myler. "I couldn't be more pleased that our personal and professional collaboration will continue on these two important national projects."

Myler, a 1979 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute with a degree in chemistry, holds a M.S. and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.

"Every one of these chemical neutralization projects builds on a common foundation of safety and sound science. It just makes sense to share experience and lessons learned at every opportunity."

***– Craig Myler
Chief Engineer for Process and
Technology, Bechtel National, Inc.***

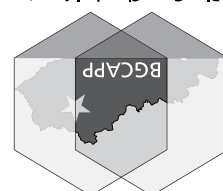
Information | *Exchange*

The Blue Grass *Exchange* is designed to keep you up to date on the chemical weapons destruction project. The *Exchange* newsletter welcomes feedback and story ideas. Contact the editor, Stephanie Parrett, by phone at (859) 626-8944 or e-mail at bgoutreach@bah.com.

Virtual Information | *Exchange*

Find out more about ACWA's mission to safely destroy the chemical weapons stockpiles located at Blue Grass Army Depot, Ky., and Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo., by visiting www.pmacwa.army.mil.

Current and past editions of the Blue Grass and Pueblo *Exchange* can also be found online. To locate the newsletters, click on the Information Products link and then on the word "Newsletters."



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